

*Calls for ITC to recommend import relief, President to Act*

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WASHINGTON – Congressman Tim Ryan applauded yesterday’s International Trade Commission decision that has found that import surges from China are costing domestic tire industry workers their jobs. Congressman Ryan has further called upon the ITC to recommend import relief and is asking the President to act on behalf of American manufacturing workers.

“Yesterday the ITC sent a message to our trading partners that they must follow fair trade practices will not be allowed to illegally dump products on to our shores,” said Ryan. “This ruling must be followed up with import relief, and I urge the President to act in the interests of the hard working men and women of companies like Denman Tire, right here in Ohio, whose livelihoods depend on foreign countries, like China, abiding by the trade rules that they agreed to when we normalized relations.”

The USW petition was submitted to the ITC under Section 421 of the Trade Act of 1974. It became law in 2000 as a condition for China’s entry into the World Trade Organization. Under this safeguard mechanism, companies or workers injured by import surges from China can petition for temporary relief in the form of reduced imports.

The USW petition explained how imports of passenger vehicle and light truck tires from China between 2004 and 2008 led to sharp declines in domestic production and over 5,000 job losses. The petition showed that there was a 215 percent increase in imports by volume and a 295 percent increase in imports in terms of dollar value over the five-year period.

Ryan wrote to the ITC just days after the petition was filed to express his support and testified at a June 2 ITC hearing on behalf of the workers at the Denman Tire Company factory in Leavittsburg, Ohio.

On June 29, the ITC will vote on whether to recommend that the President seek import relief for domestic tire manufacturers. President Obama is expected to receive the ITC's report and recommendations on July 9, and will make a final decisions on import relief in September.